

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

In addition, equal time is an essential part of the rules concerning free programs on behalf of politicians. In this case, the program is designed strictly to benefit one side and to disparage the other. Sinclair should be made to provide equal time to the candidate who will be criticized in this program so that he may defend his campaign.

Sincerely,
Sharon A. Bond